

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 QUITO 06279 090206Z  
ACTION ARA-15

INFO OCT-01 HA-05 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08 INR-10  
LAB-04 NSAE-00 SIL-01 PA-01 ICA-11 /056 W  
-----046350 100556Z /10  
R 082054Z SEP 78  
FM AMEMBASSY QUITO  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9337  
INFO AMCONSUL GUAYAQUIL

C O N F I D E N T I A L QUITO 6279

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: SHUM, ELAB, EC  
SUBJECT: TEACHERS' UNION LEADERS FINALLY RELEASED

1. THE SUPREME COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENT REDUCED ON SEPT. 7 THE SENTENCES OF NATIONAL TEACHERS' UNION (UNE) LEADERS MANUEL ANTON VELEZ AND JULIO AYALA SERRA TO THE TIME THAT THEY HAVE ALREADY SERVED. ANTON, THEN PRESIDENT OF UNE, AND AYALA WERE SENTENCED BY A GUAYAS POLICE COURT IN AUG. 1977 TO TWO YEARS IN PRISON FOR THEIR LEADERSHIP OF THE MAY-JUNE 1977 TEACHERS' STRIKE, WHICH THE GOVERNMENT CONSIDERED ILLEGAL. UNE WAS DEPRIVED OF ITS LEGAL STATUS AT THAT TIME.

2. THE ANTON-AYALA CASE DREW THE INTEREST OF NUMEROUS ECUADOREAN AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, INCLUDING THE AMERICAN FEDERATION OF TEACHERS AND AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL. THE RELEASE OF ANTON AND AYALA WAS OBTAINED AFTER TONY DIBLASI, AFT REPRESENTATIVE, WHO HAD VISITED ANTON AND AYALA IN PRISON SEVERAL TIMES, PERSUADED THEM TO SIGN A TELEGRAM TO THE MINISTRY OF GOVERNMENT SOLICITING THEIR RELEASE. THEIR REFUSAL TO MAKE SUCH A REQUEST WAS ONE OF THE REASONS FOR THEIR FAILURE TO SECURE AN EARLIER RELEASE.

3. WITH THE RELEASE OF ANTON AND AYALA THERE ARE NO POLITICAL PRISONERS IN ECUADOR - FOR THE MOMENT.

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** TEACHERS, LABOR UNIONS, PRISONERS RELEASE  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 08 sep 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1978QUITO06279  
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**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
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**Review Markings:**  
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